



Safer Communities Through Successful Youth

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RISK ASSESSMENT

The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) has developed a tool called the Dynamic Risk Instrument (DRI) to assess a juvenile's risk to re-offend. The DRI is calculated from 18 juvenile characteristics resident within the Criminogenic and Protective Factors Assessment (CAPFA) and offense records. The CAPFA is used for all juveniles committed to the ADJC, and consists of 12 domains and over 180 measures. CAPFA scores are updated every 90 days. Eleven of the 18 DRI measures are dynamic and were suggested through a comprehensive literature review. The measures include such things as respect for authority and resistance to anti-social peer influence. The statistical analyses that produced the DRI followed accepted professional standards.

The DRI is preferable to traditional risk to re-offend tools because it can measure a juvenile's treatment progress, is fairly comprehensive and is easy to complete. Since more than half of the DRI measures are dynamic, this tool will allow department staff to track a juvenile offender's treatment progress. Many risk to re-offend tools use only static or unchanging measures, such as age at first arrest. Such instruments do not measure the juvenile's treatment progress and limit an agency's ability to monitor program effectiveness. By including 18 juvenile characteristics in the calculation of the risk score, the DRI includes a fairly comprehensive picture of the juvenile. Many similar tools include a limited number of characteristics thus achieving *parsimony*, but missing important characteristics, resulting in a less sensitive tool, and one that may lack staff credibility. The DRI is easy to calculate. It does not require the collection of additional data because the risk score is computer-generated from measures resident within CAPFA.

The Research and Development Division (R&D) partnered with two ADJC Divisions (Classification/Case Management and Management Information Systems) and an experienced consultant (LeCroy Milligan and Associates) to create the DRI. The statistical analyses and computer programming on the DRI were completed in 2007, and R&D revalidated the DRI in 2008. Please contact Dr. John Vivian, Administrator, Research and Development at 602-526-6066 or jvivian@azdjc.gov if you have any questions about the DRI.